

# AURUM YOUTH PSYCHOSOCIAL PROGRAMME



# THIS PRESENTATION WILL COVER

- Programme rationale
- Youth MMC programme
- YPS community engagement
- YPS as recruitment tool
- Successes
- Challenges



# RATIONALE

- Most South African cultures associate circumcision with a transition from boyhood to manhood
- Whilst MMC is primarily about HIV and STI reduction, health and hygienic benefits
- Adolescents may twist the 60% HIV reduction messages of MMC into 60% HIV prevention and assume that MMC provides a “silver bullet” against HIV
- Now that they are men they take on the role of a “man” which often has negative undertones (promiscuity, multiple partners, forceful, aggressive and violent behaviour)



# BACKGROUND

- Implemented in partnership with Sonke Gender Justice network in March 2012 at WMMSHC in Tembisa
- Sonke trained Aurum and gave technical support regarding implementation of the programme in May 2012
- Aurum started implementing the programme independently from Sonke in 2013 and expanded to NW
- Sessions currently implemented by Aurum recruiters in NW and EKN



# YPS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- YPS recruitment is done concurrently with MMC recruitment
- Parents are informed of the YPS as a package of services offered to boys aged 14 – 17 undergoing MMC
- This is to get parental buy in to the programme
- Once parents buy in they send children to YPS designated area for participation in sessions
- Tool to start dialogue between adolescent boys and older men in the community



# YPS AS MMC RECRUITMENT TOOL IN SCHOOLS

- Schools are reluctant when coming to MMC recruitment due to its surgical nature and parental consent required
- YPS is used as an entry into the schools
- Schools have buy in to the YPS messaging especially with violence rates on the rise in schools and amongst the adolescent population in general



# TOPICS ADDRESSED IN SESSIONS

- Defining manhood and masculinity
- Addressing gender norms and how these can lead to gender based violence
- Consent vs coercion in sexual intercourse
- Rape defined
- Exploring readiness for sex and how peer pressure influences this decision
- Correct, consistent condom usage



# SUCCESSSES

- Over 9 000 adolescents have been through the YPS programme since inception in 2012 (23%)
- More than 60% of these adolescents are males that have been reached through the MMC clinics in 2 provinces (NW and GP) in South Africa and 40% have been reached through school programme
- Fully fledged schools programme developed from YPS activities (sessions in schools, team invited to participate in interschool cultural and sporting activities)
- Well established relationship with DOE as a result of YPS in schools





# CHALLENGES

- Space in facilities to run the session
- Programme has less than 20% coverage (YPS vs MMC) due to message conflict in some area (rural NW)
- Running sessions with the *targeted* group (age appropriate messaging due to interest in topics discussed)
- Because it is not clinical in nature YPS is often misunderstood as part of MMC package of service



# CONSIDERATIONS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING

- Streamlining clinical and psychosocial services in VMMC
- YPS is an opportunity for collaboration with traditional and cultural sectors as messages are not similar (manhood vs YPS)



# THANK YOU

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